

**From:** bhaller@mac.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:18pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I will try to be brief, as I imagine you have many e-mails like this to read.

I would like to urge you to reject the proposed settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case. It amounts to a slap on the wrist, and will not result in real changes for consumers.

To me the litmus test of a reasonable settlement is this. Right now, in the current anti-competitive climate, a company like Apple is unable to even stop its slow but steady loss of market share, despite offerings of both hardware and software that are markedly superior to those offered by the Wintel world (dominated by Microsoft). It is difficult to imagine what Apple could do to make inroads in the market, given the stranglehold Microsoft has. A reasonable settlement would restore the possibility of effective competition by other companies such as Apple, Sun, and AOL Time Warner (Netscape). No more, but no less.

The proposed settlement simply does not do that. Microsoft's anti-competitive practices will continue virtually unabated (as they have in all the time since this suit began), everybody else's market share will continue to decrease, and the situation will be even more difficult to remedy further down the road than it is now.

In my opinion, the original judgment (that Microsoft ought to be split into two companies) was reasonable and just. There may be other measures that will achieve the desired end of restoring competition to the market, but I doubt that they would be any less extreme.

Thank you for your time.

- Ben Haller (bhaller@mac.com)